

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, April 5, 1973



**Frostbite**

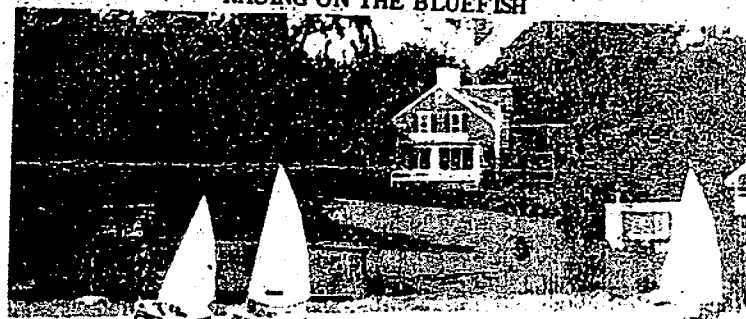
**News**



Duxbury Frostbite Society will host over 100 Eastern Dinghy Sailors at its 14th Annual Regatta on May 5 and 6. For the first time two olympic classes will be represented. The Monotype Finns and the newly appointed Olympic 470's.



RACING ON THE BLUEFISH



Arthur Knapp, the well-known helmsman from Larchmont, will present his silver trophy to the high point Helmsman in the interclub dinghy class. Frostbite sailing began in Manhasset 30 years ago when Knapp and the Long Island Sailors launched their dinghies on a cold new year's day. Since then fleets of Interclubs, Dyers, Penguins and Moths have been breaking the ice to race in the winter.

Duxbury's Regatta serves as the spring warm-up for the Finns and 470's who go into official competition later on in the season. Coming from Canada, the Great Lakes, and as far south as Maryland, the olympic classes will be well represented in this tune-up season.

The Hot International Lazer, which was first introduced by its designer Bruce Kirby in Duxbury 3 years ago, will be represented by over 25 boats. The popular design has reached international status and promises to attract top flight competition.

Commodore Ted Jones says the 14th annual Regatta that is shaping up is expected to be one of the best attended in history. In addition to Finns, 470's and Lazers the regatta will host 420's, O'Day Interclubs.

Registration is at town landing, 9 a.m. on May 5. First race 11:30 a.m. First race on May 6 at 12:30 p.m.

## HOW IT STARTED

A Duxbury group in 1958 pioneered frostbiting in this area, with Scituate following a year later, and why not? Sautuit in Indian means "cold running water."

From the South Shore edition of the April issue of Sports Digest we learn that the chilly idea was hatched at a New Year's Eve party at the Larchmont (N.Y.) Yacht Club around 3 a.m. after the tavern rolsters welcomed the year 1931.

"Let's go sailing," someone said, wondering no doubt, why no one had thought of the idea before. In a twinkling dinghies were dunking. That is, the first race was held at noon. Frostbiting began in earnest the following fall.

According to the magazine, which is of great interest to Duxbury and other New England readers, the first trophy was a half-gallon flask. The winner of the Duxbury regatta gets a replica of the original flask.

"We all basically love the sea," says Commodore Ted Jones of the Duxbury flotilla. (Listen, Ted, you don't have to apologize.) "You leave the fireplace and paper because it's

just so beautiful." Anyone who has had zero degree brine splashed in his face will, of course, agree.

During the season Duxbury aficionados sail up to a dozen dinghies every Sunday, and that means 17 Sundays.

"We probably run the biggest frostbiting regatta anywhere right here in Duxbury," Jones says. "There are 85-100 boats in 5 classes. We get the Interclub Dinghies, 420s, Jollyboats, Finns and Lazers. We've been getting so many at this regatta that we're seriously considering eliminating one of the classes."

This year's Duxbury event will lure boats from all over the U.S. According to Jones, the weight limit of 300 pounds encourages young folks to crew for adults. "Part of our philosophy is to let the youngsters feel this excitement," concludes the commodore.